

Women in History Team
Session 3, 2025
Wednesday, 3:00-4:30
Melanie Ware, Instructor/Coach (Jenni Buchanan assisting)

Course Objective:

Students will learn about the lives, accomplishments, and challenges of six groundbreaking women. Our group will study their chosen script, practice public speaking skills, create a costume and props, and then prepare for a major presentation at the **Thousand Oaks Library on Thursday, March 6 (6:00 PM)**. Students may be requested for more presentations various locations (such as The Belmont or The Reserve senior living residential communities, etc.). Parents will be called upon to assist with costumes and with the March 6th presentation night.

The National Women's History Project theme for 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women, Education & Inspiring Generations."

Women selected this year are:

- **Elizabeth Blackwell** (1821-1910) America's First Woman Physician
- **Susan Butcher** (1954-2006) Iditarod Champion
- **Rachel Carson** (1907-1964) Writer, Scientist, Ecologist
- **Emma Lazarus** (1849-1887) Statue of Liberty Poet
- **Bridget "Biddy" Mason** (1818-1891) Freed Slave, Los Angeles Landowner

Course Expectations:

- Be open to ideas, discussion, collaboration, and sharing in a positive, supportive environment.
- Be ready to research more information on your selected woman, and practice on your own each week.
- Be willing to create a costume and assist with the creation of the presentation boards.
- Attend dress rehearsal Wednesday, March 5 during class time
- Be on time (5:15 PM) and ready to perform on **Thursday, March 6 (performance begins at 6:00 PM)**. Invite family and friends to this free community event.
- Materials needed EACH week: Script, spiral notebook, folder, and pencil/pen.

Syllabus: (specific activities subject to change)

1/15 Introduction to the program and selected women. Watch a film on our groundbreakers. Begin selection process for our scripts. (There is a possibility that scripts will not be chosen today. We will decide together who performs which script, or scripts will be assigned). Assignment: Fact finding mission.

1/22 Read scripts aloud and discuss what was learned. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women (#1). Assignment: read through scripts, look up unfamiliar words, find a few more interesting points about your selected woman.

1/29 Work on public speaking skills: body movement, eye contact, inflection, voice, pacing and poise. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women (#2). Assignment: practice script using skills learned.

2/5 Discuss props and costumes and continue speaking practice. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women (#3). Assignment: collect props and materials for costumes.

2/12 Work on cue cards. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women (#4). Assignment: practice script using cue cards and collect pictures of assigned woman for presentation boards.

2/19 Work on presentation boards. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women (#5). Assignment: work on costume and props. Optional assignment: make any connections to present your script to public or private audiences.

2/26: More practice! Inspirational video will focus on one of the women (#6). Finalize speeches and personal speaking goals. Bring costume ideas.

3/5: Final steps. Presentation boards due. Dress rehearsal during class and after lunch.

3/6: Wednesday Performance at 6:00 PM. Presentation at TO Library. Students must arrive at 5:15 and be ready to go!

3/12 and/or 3/14: 3:00-4:30 Possible encore performance, special celebration, and/or lunch offsite (Friday). Details TBD pending schedules of students.

Additional performances in March may be arranged, depending on requests, student interest, and student availability. Not all speakers are required to participate, and sometimes, only a limited number of speeches are requested. All this will be decided during the course.